

DeFazio has been a vocal advocate on behalf of our men and women serving in the military, including the hundreds of Oregon National Guard members deployed overseas. When DeFazio received reports about inadequate supplies and training of Oregon Guard members at Ft. Hood, Texas, he traveled to the base in December 2003 to see the problems for himself. After the visit, DeFazio wrote to Secretary Rumsfeld and Army Secretary Schoomaker about what he'd seen. A number of the problems, including moldy barracks and paying for supplies out-of-pocket, were resolved after DeFazio's visit.

Congressman DeFazio served in the United States Air Force Reserve from June 1967 until his honorable discharge with the rank of 2nd Lt. on March 30, 1971.

DeFazio has been a long-time critic of Pentagon weapons programs that are over-budget, behind schedule and irrelevant to fighting today's threats. He successfully fought to have the Army's over-budget, under-performing Comanche Helicopter program cancelled. DeFazio continues to fight for fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon so that scarce funds can better be spent on the basic needs of our troops, obligations to veterans of past wars and other domestic priorities.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, is a recognized expert on Congress' constitutional prerogative to declare war. Since his first term in Congress, DeFazio has, in an effort to restore Congress' role in the decision to go to war, introduced legislation to substantially revise the War Powers Resolution, placing statutory limits on the President's power to initiate hostilities and giving members of Congress legal standing to bring suit against the President for his failure to comply with the Resolution.

In the late 1980s DeFazio applied his War Powers legislation to President Reagan's use of US Naval forces to escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf. He also filed suit with Rep. Mike Lowry and 100 Members of Congress against President Reagan. At the time, it was the largest lawsuit ever brought by Members of Congress against a sitting president.

In 1990 on the eve of the Gulf War, DeFazio spearheaded an effort to keep Congress in session through the month of December, so that the body would be able to vote on an authorization for war, if necessary. He was one of the very first members to insist that Congress must vote on a formal authorization before the President could commit troops to combat in the Persian Gulf.

DeFazio, was one of the first to raise concerns about the unprecedented scope of the draft authorization of force resolution offered by the House Republican leadership in the wake of the September 11 attacks. DeFazio worked with Minority Leader Gephardt and other Democratic negotiators to get language in the final version of the authorization of force resolution (H.J.Res. 64/S.J.Res. 23) allowing the President to fully respond to the September 11th attacks while protecting Congress= authority to determine when to send U.S. troops into battle in the future.

And again, DeFazio showed leadership by coordinating a letter to President Bush in December 2001 challenging the president's assertion that he had the authority to attack nations unrelated to the September 11 terrorist attacks including Iraq, without further authorization from Congress.

- 10.21.09 [DEFAZIO ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO SERVICE MEMBERS WHO SERVED UNDER STOP LOSS](#)
- 05.22.08 [DeFazio Stands up for the Truth: House Passes DoD Authorization with two DeFazio Amendments](#)
- 12.03.07 [DeFazio Urges President Bush to Step up Diplomatic Efforts With Iran](#)
- 10.09.07 [DeFazio Votes to Prevent War Profiteering](#)
- 07.12.07: [DeFazio Statement on White House Benchmarks Report on Iraq \]](#)
- 05.24.07: [DeFazio Votes Against Bill to Prolong Iraq War](#)
- 05.16.07: [DeFazio Offers Amendment to Prohibit Preemptive War with Iran without Congressional Authorization](#)
- 05.10.07: [DeFazio Votes to Bring Troops Home From Iraq](#)
- 04.24.07: [DeFazio Votes to Support U.S. Troops and Veterans and Bring an End to the Iraq War](#)
- March 23, 2007: [DeFazio Votes for a Bill to End Iraq War, Refocus Military Efforts in Afghanistan](#)
- February 16, 2007: [DeFazio Votes for Iraq Resolution](#)
- February 16, 2007: [DeFazio Speaks on Iraq Resolution](#)
- February 15, 2007: [FLOOR STATEMENT: Rep. DeFazio's Remarks on H. Con. Res. 63, the House Resolution Opposing the Escalation of the War in Iraq](#)
- January 10, 2007: [DeFazio Statement on President Bush's Call for Escalation of War in Iraq](#)
- January 9, 2007: [FLOOR STATEMENT: Extensions of Remarks on Ending the War in Iraq](#)
- December 6, 2006: [DeFazio Statement on Iraq Study Group Findings](#)
- November 8, 2006: [DeFazio Applauds Resignation of Rumsfeld](#)
- September 27, 2006: [DeFazio Votes for Equipment and Pay Raise For Troops, Funding for Wildlife Suppression](#)
- June 21, 2006: [DeFazio Offers War Powers Amendment To Defense Appropriations Bill](#)
- June 16, 2006: [DeFazio Opposes Partisan Iraq Resolution](#)
- June 15, 2006: [FLOOR STATEMENT: Full Extension of Remarks on H.Res. 861, Global War on Terror Resolution](#)
- June 13, 2006: [Floor Statements: H. Res. 861, Iraq Resolution](#)
- November 29, 2005: [DeFazio Restates Call for Iraq Exit Strategy](#)
- November 18, 2005: [House Republicans Use House of Representatives to Attack Decorated Vietnam War Veteran and Congressman Opposed to Iraq War](#)
- October 20, 2005: [Emanuel, DeFazio, Bishop, Delahunt Announce American Parity Act](#)
- June 28, 2005: [DeFazio Responds to President's Speech on Iraq](#)
- October 10, 2002: [Statement of Representative Peter DeFazio Against Authorizing War with Iraq](#)